senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems, constituting a Committee of Secretaries to address inter-ministerial and central-state issues and has taken action against defaulting contractors in order to ensure completion of National Highways works as per stipulated time frame.

Four-laning of Patna-Hajipur-Muzaffarpur Section

†2296. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) had invited tenders some days ago for four-laning of Patna-Hajipur-Muzaffarpur section of East-West four-lane Highway in order to connect Muzaffarpur to Patna in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that process of construction of the said road is still incomplete as no one has submitted any tender against the invited tenders; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and Government's view point in this regard and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) 4 laning of Patna-Muzaffarpur section of NH 19 & 77 has been included under NHDP Phase III in the State of Bihar on BOT (Toll) mode. Bids for 4 laning of Patna-Muzaffarpur Section of NH 19 & 77 were invited in June 2005 under old Model Concession Agreement (MCA) for which no response was received. Bids were again invited for the second time in June 2007 on the basis of new MCA with the last date of submission of bid as 20.08.2007. But, no response was received this time also.

(d) As there is no response of bidders on toll based BOT bid for the project stretch, Government has accorded approval for changing the mode of upgradation of Patna-Muzaffarpur Section of NH 19 & 77 from BOT (Toll) to BOT (Annuity).

Spud lying in sea near Ramsetu

2297. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 50 tonne spud is lying unsalvaged for over 12 months in the sea near Ramsetu;

(b) whether it is because of turbulence of sea waves which may not allow smooth ship movement;

(c) whether this spud is damaging vessels and fishing nets; and

(d) whether the affected parties have been paid compensation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Broken spud pieces weighing about 67 tonnes,

†*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.*